AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-11 cancelled

12. (New) A tungsten carbide powder which comprises powder particles which have a core of cast tungsten carbide and a shell of tungsten monocarbide.

13. (New) The tungsten carbide powder according to claim 12, wherein the bound carbon content is 4 to 6 wt.%.

14. (New) The tungsten carbide powder according to claim 12, wherein the bound carbon content is 4.3 to 5.5 wt.%.

15. (New) The tungsten carbide powder according to claim 12, wherein the particle size determined by Ro-Tap sieve analysis in accordance with ASTM B 214 is up to 3000 μm.

16. (New) The tungsten carbide powder according to claim 14, wherein the particle size determined by Ro-Tap sieve analysis in accordance with ASTM B 214 is up to 3000 μm.

17. (New) The tungsten carbide powder according to claim 12, wherein the thickness of the shell of tungsten monocarbide is 0.05 to 0.4 times the average particle size.

18. (New) The tungsten carbide powder according to claim 12, wherein it has a hardness of > 2000 HVO.1.

19. (New) The tungsten carbide powder according to claim 16, wherein it has a hardness of > 2000 HVO.1 and the thickness of the shell of tungsten monocarbide is 0.05 to 0.4 times the average particle size.

20. (New) The tungsten carbide powder according to claim 12, wherein the powder particles have a sharp-edged crushed morphology.

21. (New) The tungsten carbide powder according to claim 19, wherein the powder particles have a sharp-edged crushed morphology.

22. (New) A process for the production of a tungsten carbide powder which comprises powder particles which have a core of cast tungsten carbide and a shell of tungsten monocarbide which comprises heating a cast tungsten carbide powder in the presence of a carbon source to a temperature of 1300 to 2000°C.

23. (New) The process according to claim 22, wherein cast tungsten carbide powder is heated in the presence of a carbon source to a temperature of 1400 to 1700°C.

24. (New) The process according to claim 22, wherein the carbon source is carbon black, graphite and/or a hydrocarbon.

25. (New) A process according to claim 22, wherein the carbon source is added in a quantity such that the total carbon content in the reaction mixture is 4 to 6 wt.%.

26. (New) A process to surface coat a component subject to wear which comprises coating the surface of the component with the tungsten carbide powder according to claim 12.

27. (New) A drill bit which comprises the tungsten carbide powder according to claim 12.